

Sunday, Sept 12, 2021
Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston

Father Vasken A. Kouzouian, Pastor
145 Brattle Street Cambridge, MA 02138 617.354.0632

Celebrant: The Pastor

SUNDAY BULLETIN



The City of Cambridge has issued an emergency order requiring that face masks or coverings be worn in indoor public places - this includes Houses of Worship.

The order took effect at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, September 3, 2021. Holy Trinity Church and it's members and friends will be required to abide by these new safety measures.

Beginning September 3, masks will be required in the sanctuary and in all church complex buildings.

When attending services in-person, please remember:

- **Safety measures that will continue**
- **Pews will remain taped off to support distancing**
- **Masks will be made available if you need one**
- **Our cleaning protocols will remain in place**
- **Hand sanitizer will continue to be made available at the entrance of church and at the side altars**
- **Kiss of Peace will be conducted by bowing the head toward others without approaching or touching on another**
- **Confession will be done in place at your pew**
- **Holy Communion will continue to be distributed using safe practices**

Please feel free to contact our office at 617.354.0632 if you have any questions or concerns.

****We are grateful for your trust and loyalty to our Holy Trinity community.****

From Today's Bible Reading

John 3:13-21 The Pharisee Nicodemus has privately sought Jesus to learn more and just heard what it means to be born again in the Holy Spirit, into a new life. Here Jesus tells him that God the Father sent His Son into the world not to condemn it but to save it, so that all who believe in Him might have eternal life. Light has prevailed over darkness and all are invited to live in that light for God's glory. *Reflection: Imagine that who you are is like a dark room and God's bright light reveals all its hidden places. What would it disclose?*

Galatians 6:14-18 St. Paul declares that the cross is the only source of pride and joy to him and that in Christ the world has been crucified to him. His past, his "tribe," his earthly affiliations mean nothing – he has been made new in Christ (v.15). *Reflection: Prayerfully read verse 14 as if you were making this declaration. Read and re-read. Is it as true for you as it was for St. Paul? If not, describe what it would mean in your life if it were.*

Isaiah 49:13-23 A refrain of joyous comfort from God who declares that His people will never be forgotten. "Lift up your eyes and look around" the Lord declares (v.18). Even if they feel forsaken, in ruin, God reminds them that His love is more powerful than that of a mother for her child. The analogy of a mother's love in verse 15 is another example of God's tenderness expressed in female imagery. *Reflection: Why is it hard to remember God's love and blessings in the midst of difficulty? What might it take for you to "shout for joy"?*

Today is the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross is one of the Five Major Feasts (daghavars) of the Armenian Church, observed on the Sunday nearest September 14. On that day, there is a procession and an Antasdan Service, which is the blessing of the fields, popularly known as the Four Corners of the World. In early times, the most important church in Jerusalem was named the Church of the Holy Cross. It had been built over the place where Jesus was crucified. Every year, the bishop would take out a relic of the cross and elevate it over his head for the people to honor and venerate. This ceremony is the origin of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Traditionally, we connect another story to this Feast Day. In the 7th century, the Persians captured the cross of our Lord after devastating the city of Jerusalem. Emperor Heracles fought a battle against them (in which Armenian troops participated) and liberated the cross. Upon his return, he exalted it in Christian lands, including Armenia, through which the victorious army carried it back to Jerusalem. *Activity: On this Feast Day, put a small cross in your pocket and reflect reverently throughout the day on Jesus Christ, whose sacrifice changed your life now and for all eternity.*

Readings of the Day:

Is. 49:13-23. Gal. 6:14-18. Jn. 3:13-21.

Today's Bible reading is from the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to St. John, chapter 3, vs. 13-21 and will be read by Robert Dulgarian.

Today is the **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**, a major Feast Day of the Armenian Church; therefore, Requiem Service (Hokehankisd) will not be held.

Requests for Requiem Service will be conducted next Sunday, September 19.



After Church Service today, the 2021 Holy Trinity Annual Picnic is being held in our Church Courtyard from Noon- 5pm.

The Antasdan Service (Blessing of the Four corners) and Basil (Rahan) Blessing will take place at 3pm.

ANTASDAN SERVICE AND BASIL (RAHAN) BLESSING

On the occasion of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the Antasdan Service (Blessing of the Four Corners) will take place following the Divine Liturgy. The Holy Cross is decorated with rahan, sweet basil, an herb considered to be a royal spice. The word basil in Greek means King, and so it covers the Cross of Christ the King.

At the conclusion of the service, the congregation takes home with them a small sprig of basil as a symbol of Christ's victory.

The basil (rahan) for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross includes basil planted by the children of Trinity Kids' Place, ages 3-9, on our Church property to be used for this Feast Day. Basil also donated by Richard and Karen Diranian.

Prayer Requests

Your prayers are requested to have mercy on our countrymen in Artsakh, to strengthen them in defense of their homeland, and to grant consolation to the suffering and grieving.

Your prayers are also requested for **Nishan Tikijian**;
and for the good health of all those who suffer from illness in their own private way; and for those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

Prayers of thanksgiving and praise for the healing of **Ruegg Quibell**.

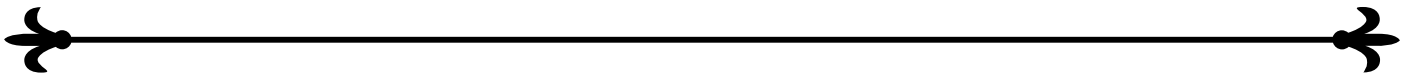
Der Vasken offers a weekly Hokehankisd Service.

Please note that if you would like Der Vasken to offer your prayer request during his silent prayers at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, please fill out the Prayer Request cards that have been removed from the pews when the pandemic restrictions began, and are located on the table in the Narthex (the Church Sanctuary lobby).

Please contact the church office with any questions.

***Requests submitted after 11:30 am on Thursday will not be printed in the Sunday Bulletin but will be read from the altar by Der Vasken.**

Please alert a Parish Council member on Sunday if you requested a Hokehankisd after 11:30 am on Thursday to ensure Der Vasken has the name of your loved one.*



The Holy Trinity Church has received requests for information about part time help for elderly Armenians in and outside of Cambridge area.

- An elderly Armenian man, former MIT engineer, living in Cambridge, Massachusetts needs help in shopping, cleaning, driving to doctor appointments, etc.
- An elderly woman, living in Cape Cod, needs help and companionship of an Armenian woman.

*If you are able to provide such help and for more information,
please call the Holy Trinity Armenian church office at 617-354-0632*



Welcome HOME Sunday

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENING DAY OCTOBER 3, 2021

ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS
SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

REGISTRATION LINK
tiny.cc/sundayschool2021

CLASSES WILL MEET **IN PERSON**
BEGINNING **OCTOBER 3, 2021**

CLASSES WILL MEET WEEKLY FROM
10:30 A.M. TO NOON.

STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH & SAFETY
PRECAUTIONS WILL BE IN EFFECT

- WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR CDC, STATE AND LOCAL GUIDELINES FOR UP-TO-DATE RECOMMENDATIONS
- HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY SCHOOL PROTOCOLS WILL REFLECT CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS
- HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS WILL BE PROVIDED IN DETAIL IN THE ONLINE REGISTRATION MATERIALS, AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING BACK OUR STUDENTS AND RECONNECTING WITH OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL FAMILIES!

"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT YN. ARPI KOUZOUIAN, SUPERINTENDENT
youth@htaac.org ~ 617.354.0632

Fr. Vasken Kouzouian, Pastor ~ Holy Trinity Armenian Church ~ 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 ~ www.htaac.org

Rev. 8.30.21



HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO AN

2021 International Food Festival

SUNDAY | OCT 3 | 12 NOON - 3PM

Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall | 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA

SAMPLE AUTHENTIC CUISINE FROM
Armenia Brazil China France Greece
India Italy Persia Spain

Adults \$15
Children (12 or younger) \$10



International wine
and beer will be sold



Holy Trinity Armenian Church 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 ~ www.htaac.org ~ 617.354.0632

Don't miss out on this new and upcoming content! Follow us on Instagram @htaac and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityArmenianChurch/>

If you know someone who you'd like to see featured in the Parishioner Spotlight, please let us know! Send email to Lori Dorian at intern@htaac.org



A Message from Bishop Daniel
Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
An Appeal for Relief Aid to
Haiti and Lebanon

Dear Faithful People,

Late last week I sent an urgent directive to leaders throughout the Eastern Diocese, asking all of our people to pray to our merciful Lord for the relief of suffering brought on by the recent disasters plaguing our world—whether of human or natural origin. That message also advised that I would follow up this week with additional direction on how the faithful of our Diocese could help in these dire circumstances. The present message is my appeal to focus on two such causes, in the nations of Haiti and Lebanon.

Anyone watching the news is all too familiar with the heartbreaking images from Haiti, which experienced a mammoth earthquake two weeks ago. Of course, as Armenians, news of this kind of natural disaster summons up the compassionate feelings we had in the aftermath of the earthquake that rocked our homeland in 1988. Though more 30 years have since elapsed, the losses caused by that catastrophe are still felt in palpable ways in our homeland—and the people of Haiti will likely endure years of hardship after their recent disaster. One news item that struck a chord with me told how the earthquake had destroyed hundreds of churches throughout the island, yet the Haitian people continued to congregate amid the ruins of their sanctuaries, to worship and pray as communities of faith, and to draw closer to our Lord in the midst of their suffering. It vividly reminded me of nearly identical scenes we saw among our people in Spitak, Gyumri, and Vanadzor, in the aftermath of the 1988 earthquake.

Less visible in the general public sphere—but profoundly urgent to us as Armenians—is the ongoing crisis in Lebanon. More than a year after the catastrophic explosion in Beirut’s harbor, the country is still burdened by the destruction and loss of life that occurred. To make matters worse, that burden is magnified by the political, economic, and medical upheaval that the people of Lebanon were already enduring at the time, the effects of which have not abated.

This summer, His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, appealed to the Armenian diaspora to send relief aid to help Armenians and others in the country who are still afflicted by these multiple disasters.

Of course, by virtue of our ancient embrace of the humane ethic embodied in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, we Armenians cannot turn a blind eye to these terrible developments. Sadly, there is no dearth of pain and misery in our world today, as our people in Armenia and Artsakh know all too well. Our Diocese remains deeply committed to ameliorating the troubles in our homeland on a long-term, ongoing basis, through our own Fund for Armenian Relief, and our support of Holy Etchmiadzin’s Artsakh Outreach project.

But these two tragedies, in Haiti and Lebanon, seem to me to demand urgent attention in the present moment.

With that in mind, I am directing that our parishes take up special collections for the next two Sundays—September 5 and 12—culminating in the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

The collections will benefit the earthquake relief effort in Haiti, and the ongoing humanitarian outreach effort in Lebanon. All collected funds will be divided evenly between the two causes. Half of the proceeds will go to support the work of the Little Sisters of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus: a Catholic relief group working “on the ground” in Haiti, with a sterling reputation for providing prompt, direct assistance to those most in need.

The other half of the collected proceeds will go to support the crucial outreach efforts being undertaken by the Armenian Church’s Catholicate of Cilicia, under the direct supervision of His Holiness Aram I.

Checks should be made out to the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, Memo: “Haiti/Lebanon Relief Collection.” Individual donations can also be made on the Diocese’s secure server (see the link below).

I implore all of our faithful people to be generous in these extremely difficult times. Parishes should send their collected funds to the Eastern Diocese by Friday, September 17.

Most of all, throughout these weeks, and in the days to follow, please continue to offer prayers for afflicted people everywhere. Just within the last day, we have begun to hear about the victims of hurricane flooding in Louisiana, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. Remember them, too, as we pray for the peace of God and the relief of suffering among the people of Haiti and Lebanon, Armenia and Artsakh, Afghanistan and America, and the entire world.

With my prayers,
Bishop DANIEL
Primate

TO DONATE NOW
<https://armenianchurch.us/donate/>

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Morning Service - 9:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy - 10 a.m.

Services conclude - 12 Noon

We urge our faithful to attend Church Services on time.

HOLY TRINITY CALENDAR

TODAY Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

(Khatchveratz) Blessing of Basil, 3pm

Holy Trinity Annual Picnic;

Church Courtyard, Noon- 5pm

Sunday School Online Registration Opens;

Please see flyer for details

Tues, Sept 21 Armenian Independence Day

Sun, Oct 3 Sunday School Opening Day;

Peter Adamian Hall, 10:30am- 12 noon

Armenian School Opening Day;

Peter Adamian Hall, 9:30am- 10:30am

International Food Festival;

Charles & Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, 12 noon- 3pm



Vemkar is very excited to announce the launch of our Adult Christian Education program! This 12-part online live session series aims to shepherd the faithful of the Armenian Church into mature disciples of Christ. Every Tuesday from September 21 to December 14, a session will be held by an expert member of our Diocesan body concerning all aspects of adult Christian life. Bring your Bible, a prayerful attitude, and let us all build in our

knowledge of Christ!

Areas of study include:

- Scripture
- Liturgical tradition
- Armenian Church history and teachings
(History, Saints, Church Fathers, Music, Art etc.)
- Prayer

Visit the program page on Vemkar's website to register for live sessions!

<https://vemkar.us/adult-christian-education>